



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

July/August 1987

Volume X, Bulletin No. 7/8

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I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE
OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE

The Committee met on 7 July 1987, and welcomed the State of Bangladesh as an observer.

The newly-appointed Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, Mr. Joseph Verner Reed, made a statement and introduced Mr. Naseem Mirza who had recently assumed his new post as Chief of the Division for Palestinian Rights.

It was decided that the Committee would appoint Mr. Borg (Malta) as interim Rapporteur and interim Chairman of the Working Group, pending the arrival of the new Permanent Representative of Malta.

The Committee also heard reports from the representative of India regarding the Asian Regional Seminar/NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine held at New Delhi from 8 to 12 June 1987. The Committee took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar and of the declaration adopted by the NGO Symposium.

The representative of Malta, Rapporteur a.i., introduced the report of the Seventeenth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine, held at New York on 22 and 23 June 1987. The Committee took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar.

At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced the report of the Fourth United Nations North American Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine held at New York from 24 to 26 June 1987. The Committee took note of the Declaration of the Symposium.

The Committee also heard a report by the Chairman regarding preparations for the forthcoming International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine to be held at Geneva from 7 to 9 September 1987 and adopted the recommendations of the Bureau on that matter.

The representative of the Department of Public Information reported on the fact-finding news mission for journalists to Egypt, Jordan and Iraq, from 3 to 15 June, organized by the Department of Public Information, in close co-operation with the Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/43 C. The Committee took note of the statement.

II. FOURTH UNITED NATIONS NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL
NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE,
HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS,
NEW YORK FROM 24 TO 26 JUNE, 1987.

1. The fourth United Nations North American Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine on the theme "The Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People" was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 24 to 26 June 1987, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/96 B of 12 December 1985.

2. The Symposium was attended by 45 NGOs as participants and 29 NGOs as observers, as well by a number of observers from governments and intergovernmental organizations and liberation movements. It considered increased NGO mobilization and the involvement of new NGO constituencies in the question of Palestine and the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/58 C.

3. His Excellency, Mr. Alberto Velazco-San José (Cuba) opened and closed the Symposium on behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. Ms. Ethel Born, Chairman of the North American Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, served as the Moderator of the Symposium.

4. The Symposium had one main panel entitled "The Need for Convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with Resolution 38/58 C: The urgency of ending 20 years of occupation". The following panelists presented papers:

Mr. Tawfiq Abu Ghazaleh, an attorney with the Gaza Centre for Rights and Law;

Mr. Latif Dori, founder, Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue;

Rev. Benjamin Weir, Moderator, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Mr. Svend Robinson, Canadian Member of Parliament, who had accepted an invitation to participate as a panelist was unfortunately unable to attend due to his official duties.

5. Eight workshops were set up to deal with the following issues:

- (a) Media/Public Relations;
- (b) Challenges in Defending Human and Civil Rights;
- (c) Coalition Building;
- (d) Grass Roots Organizing;
- (e) Women;
- (f) Peace and Anti-Intervention;
- (g) Religion and Relief Groups;
- (h) Third World Communities.

Mr. David Hardin (U.S.A.) and Ms. Lea Tsemel (Israel) acted as workshop leaders for the Media/Public Relations and Challenges in Defending Human and Civil Rights, respectively.

6. The Symposium received a message from His Excellency, Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and, in return, sent a telegram of appreciation to the Chairman.

7. The declaration of the Symposium, which was adopted unanimously, is reproduced hereafter. The full text of the report will be published in due course as a special bulletin of the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights.

Declaration of the Symposium and
Workshop Recommendations

1. We, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participating in the Fourth United Nations North American NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, wish to thank the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for making this meeting possible. We are indeed honoured by the presence of the members and observers of this distinguished United Nations body.

2. We wish also to thank the Chief of the Division for Palestinian Rights, the NGO liaison officers, the staff of the Division and the Department of Conference Services for their invaluable assistance in the preparation and execution of this meeting.

3. We wish also to voice our appreciation to the distinguished expert panelists, workshop organizers, resource persons and facilitators who offered their invaluable insights into the question of Palestine and the potential central role to be played by NGOs in North America. The practical suggestions and strategies developed in the workshops assisted us in formulating future collaborative efforts in North America and in linking our efforts to a broader global network.

4. We believe this meeting contributed to the constructive interaction between the United Nations and the North American NGO community concerned with the non-implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1983, a resolution whose implementation we hold to be indispensable in securing a just and durable solution to the question of Palestine.
5. We call upon the peoples and Governments of the United States of America and Canada to take all possible steps to secure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, in order to secure a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine.
6. We resolutely reaffirm the international consensus that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian People. We affirm the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination without external interference and to establish an independent Palestinian State on its own national territory under the leadership of the PLO and the right of return, in conformity with all relevant United Nations resolutions.
7. We further strongly support the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East as called for at the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, August-September 1983, and as adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 38/58 C. We applaud the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to establish a preparatory committee for the Conference. It is essential that the International Peace Conference be inclusive and be attended by representatives of both Israel and the PLO, those Arab States party to the conflict, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. We are encouraged by the declaration of the European Community of February 1987 and the declaration of the Nordic countries of March 1987 and hope that they will lead to initiatives which will result in the convening of the Conference.
8. Within our larger concern for equal rights and justice for all people, we reaffirm that our focus as participants in this symposium is the Palestinian people and its struggle to achieve its inalienable rights; and that our goal and responsibility is to support this struggle through the strategies and activities proposed in our workshops.
9. As NGOs, we have the unique opportunity to contribute to this struggle without governmental constraints. Our guidelines must come from our consciences, which are informed by history, the knowledge of current events, and respect for international law.

10. Events in the territories occupied in 1967 must be seen as part of both an historical pattern and a continuum. The history of the Palestinian community living in pre-1967 Israel is instructive in two respects. The first is Israel's systematic attempt at removing the people from their land; the second is the Palestinian people's unyielding determination, which has empowered them to succeed in remaining on their land.

11. The Palestinians of 1948 have taught us the importance of "samed" (steadfastness). As NGOs, we must therefore be committed to support concurrently both the struggle of the Palestinians of the 1967 occupation to remain on the land and the struggle of the entire Palestinian people to attain self-determination.

12. NGOs in Canadian and United States society take special note of their role as representatives of an important segment of public opinion on the Palestine question. NGOs constitute an unquenchable force to be reckoned with that derives from this public consciousness. In view of this special role and status, non-governmental organizations in North America also recognize as part of their responsibility that they go beyond the self-imposed limitations of States and governments to contribute positively to the speedy restoration of national rights to the victimized Palestinian people.

13. The non-governmental organizations here convened recognize with appreciation the contributions that States Members of the United Nations have made to the provision of standards of world order through the promulgation of international law. Humanitarian and human rights statutes constitute the legal basis for the self-determination of peoples, including the Palestinian people. In particular, such legal instruments as the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations and other international covenants and conventions guarantee this right for the Palestinian people.

14. The international community had already affirmed the right of the Palestinian Arab people to their State in Palestine as early as 1947 with the "Plan for Partition with Economic Union". The denial of that right over the ensuing 40 years, and particularly throughout the 20 years of Israel's occupation by force of the West Bank and Gaza districts of Palestine, dramatize the failure of the international community of States to uphold the standards that they themselves have set forth. We as non-governmental organizations in North America call upon our respective Governments to respect and implement the inalienable rights of Palestinians as a people and nation, in accordance with international law.

15. In our constant attention to the issue of Palestine, the North American NGOs cannot confront this conflict in isolation from the considerations held in other parts of the world as well.
16. As people of conscience, we cannot conduct activities in our own countries in isolation from the world consensus and expect to contribute to a positive future.
17. The NGOs in North America affirm their commitment to co-operate in good faith with the international peace community - in the Americas, Europe, Israel, in the non-aligned countries and elsewhere - in their efforts towards the restoration of Palestinian rights, both for its own sake and in conjunction with efforts to reduce the continuing violence and risk of war in the Middle East.
18. Among the suggestions emanating from the discussion groups that merit serious attention and endorsement was that of convening an NGO-sponsored conference in North America (with the site of preference Washington, the alternate, Ottawa) bringing together representatives of the PLO and Israeli notables, and repeating the opportunity offered by the Constanta and Budapest meetings. Representatives of interested Governments, particularly from the European Community, the USSR and North America would also be invited.
19. We also recommend that the International Co-ordinating Committee on the Question of Palestine, in co-operation with the North American Co-ordinating Committee on the Question of Palestine, convene a model International Peace Conference utilizing NGO representatives from Israel, the PLO, the five permanent members of the Security Council and the Arab parties to the conflict. It should be held in New York under United Nations auspices in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 38/58 C and 40/43 D. We further urge that this proposal be adopted by the NGOs participating in the Fourth United Nations International NGO Meeting on the question of Palestine in Geneva, 7-9 September 1987. The other small group discussion recommendations are annexed to the present paper.
20. The symposium supports the Israeli citizens, both Jews and Arabs, who are peace activists and who are in danger of going to prison as a result of their struggle to bring peace and security to their people and their nation.
21. The symposium condemns Israeli Government attempts to limit the activities of Israeli peace activists by promulgating anti-democratic laws such as the "Law for Prevention of Terrorism".

22. In the light of the above, the symposium requests that Israel re-examine the law and its negative influence and abrogate this law. In addition, the symposium calls on Israel to drop all charges against the peace activists.

23. The aim of the present meeting was to develop practical objectives and strategies to be implemented by North American NGOs in this the Year of the Palestinian People. Our primary work was conducted in workshops, and we affirm their conclusions as we have amended them below.

24. The Media/Public Relations Workshop made the following recommendations:

(a) The North American Co-ordinating Committee (NACC), in close co-operation with North American NGOs, will undertake the development of a standardized guide on how to deal with the media and an annotated experts list representing the various sectors of North American society.

(b) The experts will be selected for their ability to work effectively with the electronic and print media. The guide and list will be made available to NGOs co-operating with NACC.

(c) The workshop repeatedly voiced a concern for humanizing the North American public's perception of the Palestinian people. To change minds, the participants concluded that it is necessary to develop effective techniques. NGOs shall focus on issues of high value to their targeted audiences, the moderate public of the United States and Canada. They should provide new information in concise form to media sources. Finally, in conformity with the suggested experts list, NGOs should offer credible spokespersons to the media and the public to comment on the issues.

(d) Awareness of Palestinian culture is one method to humanize perceptions of Palestinians. We therefore urge the North American NGOs:

(1) To co-operate closely with the International Co-ordinating Committee on Palestine (ICCP) tours of Palestinian women and artists through North America in the fall of 1987 and at other times as one way of introducing North Americans to Palestinian people, their culture and their concerns;

(2) To target mainstream civic and social organizations in North America (i.e. Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Soroptimists) in order to schedule sympathetic speakers on the Middle East conflict, the role of the United States and the question of Palestine;

(3) To request the United Nations to establish a permanent display of Palestinian cultural heritage to join the existing display on Palestinian political history currently on the third floor of the United Nations General Assembly building;

(4) Create a mobile exhibit on Palestinian culture and history to be displayed throughout North America, which could be used in conjunction with programmes in local churches, libraries and universities.

25. The Challenges in Defending Civil and Human Rights Workshop reaffirms the Third North American NGO Declaration of June 1986 and:

(a) Calls upon Israel to observe the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) concerning the treatment of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories;

(b) Condemns the use of any "alleged" legal system as a tool of foreign policy and as an instrument of repression of the Palestinian people;

(c) Affirms the right of the Palestinian people to resist the Israeli occupation;

(d) Affirms the rights of free speech and political association both in the occupied territories, in Israel and in the United States, particularly during the two hundredth anniversary of the Constitution of the United States;

(e) Opposes the Dole and Kemp bills and all related legislation and pledges collective action to defeat these bills;

(f) Calls for legislation in support of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East as proposed by United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 C;

(g) Supports Palestinian family reunification in the occupied territories, the "Los Angeles Eight" ^{1/} defendants case and other similar cases in the coming year;

(h) Reaffirms the NGO theme/campaign to end the 20 years of occupation;

(i) Salutes all those Israelis who work for Palestinian human and civil rights.

26. The Coalition-Building Workshop recommended the development of a broad-based coalition in North America drawing in participants from new constituencies such as third world groups; religious communities; labour unions; and peace, anti-intervention and women's groups. Its work shall be aimed at redirecting United States Middle East policy by:

(a) Influencing public opinion, particularly in the United States, in support of the Palestinian people in their right of self-determination, including the right of return, and in support of an international peace conference to include the PLO, Israel, the five permanent members of the Security Council and the Arab States who are parties to the conflict;

(b) Ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories;

(c) Addressing human rights violations;

(d) Creating a forum for debate of Middle East issues in the 1988 United States presidential campaign, to result in planks in major party platforms covering United States support for Palestinian self-determination and United

States recognition of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and support for an international peace conference.

The NACC might further facilitate the work of this coalition by overseeing and encouraging contacts between NGOs along geographical lines throughout the US and Canada.

27. The Grass Roots Organizing Workshop:

(a) Recommends that the NACC establish a national guide book of NGOs registered with the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights to include:

- (i) National office address and one-paragraph description;
- (ii) Regional and local affiliates;
- (iii) A listing of each organization's available human and material resources;

(b) Recommends that the NACC facilitate additional speaking tours on a national and local level to address grass roots organizations, i.e. coupling Palestinians and Israelis on national tours, matching Palestinians, blacks, Latinos, Asians and Jews and other experts living in local areas;

(c) Recommends that the NACC co-ordinate simultaneous regional (to include Canada), one-day symposia to promote the International Peace Conference before the next North American symposium. The intent is to develop greater local participation in the promotion of the Peace Conference.

In an effort to broaden the base of the NGOs, a committee was formed to approach other organizations in order for these organizations to become aware of the NGOs and to join the NGO movement.

28. The Women's Workshop endorses the call of the United Nations General Assembly to convene an International Peace Conference on the Middle East in conformity with the provisions of resolution 38/58 C. The women assembled further call upon all United Nations organs and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide immediate and adequate assistance projects which will contribute to improving the living conditions of Palestinian women and children. To these ends, the women and groups assembled committed themselves to the following specific projects to be undertaken during the next 12 months:

(a) Cultural exchanges and speaking tours, to include the tour currently being set up by NACC and ICC;

(b) The creation of high visibility for the International Peace Conference. Taking a lesson from the role of entertainers in bringing African issues into the homes of America, participants agreed to seek out well-known artists and entertainers to promote the International Peace Conference and to establish a dialogue with prominent public women likewise to seek their endorsement;

(c) Letter writing campaigns for Palestinian prisoners, particularly women and children;

(d) Material aid and community development projects, with the understanding that it is imperative to work in tandem with Palestinian women's institutions in the area, in response to their needs, to undertake specific aid projects. At the same time, participants recognized the educational benefits accruing from such a campaign.

An interim task force was set up to ensure follow-through on the four agreed areas of activity.

29. The Peace and Anti-Intervention Workshop recommends the reaffirmation and implementation of the resolutions of the 1986 North American Symposium on the Question of Palestine and calls on NGOs:

(a) To pressure the United States to support the convening of the International Peace Conference as defined in General Assembly resolution 38/58 C and to educate the peace movement about this resolution. NGOs should work to popularize the concept of the International Peace Conference through campaigns that include slogans;

(b) To urge all peace and anti-intervention groups to work to end United States support for Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza now and co-operate closely with North American NGOs on the question of Palestine;

(c) To commit symposium participants to convening local committees of NGOs to visit local congressional/parliamentary representatives to discuss the International Peace Conference and the pursuit of Middle East peace with them;

(d) To salute efforts towards peace undertaken by Palestinians, Israelis and other peace-loving forces around the world;

(e) To respond effectively to United States global foreign policy in a unified and collective way, particularly co-operating with the peace and anti-intervention community.

30. The Religious and Relief Groups Workshop

(a) Urges religious organizations to encourage "Holy Land tours" which give inclusive perspectives of people, ideas and sites. Good models are available and should be sought to urge greater youth exchange programmes;

(b) Urges NACC to explore the possibility of promoting an interfaith day of Middle East peace and appointing a task force of organizations to develop ideas for activities to be circulated in the NACC newsletter;

(c) Urges immediate investigation and other appropriate action against the treatment of United States citizens (Palestinian and other Arab Americans) who, with their families, journey to Israel and the occupied territories for a visit. They are often not allowed into the country. If they are granted a short stay their passports are held and high bonds (thousands of dollars) are required till their departure;

(d) Urges increased advocacy efforts through continuous monitoring, questioning, challenging and influencing of public policy, in Washington and Ottawa and through district offices in local communities;

(e) Urges an ecumenical approach to constituency education utilizing the model given by the Presbyterians in their Moderator's Conference on the Middle East held in April 1987. In addition, urge circulation of available resources through NACC;

(f) Urges listing of resources on the Middle East through the NACC network, establishing some means to network with one another about what is available;

(g) Encourages the National Council of Churches in its dialogue with the U.S. evangelical Christian community concerning theology related to Middle East issues.

31. The Third World Communities Workshop considered the problems and opportunities for increasing co-operation and interchange between the movement for peace and justice in the Middle East and third world communities and their organizations. The workshop took note of the failure to attract the participation of nationally oppressed minorities and urges the adoption of the following recommendations:

(a) The facilitation of greater interchange with and participation of third world organizations;

(b) The pursuit of discussions with Congressional black caucuses and Hispanic caucuses on the question of Palestine, especially to promote an international peace conference;

(c) The development of a network of third world activists and experts on the question of Palestine;

(d) The organization of delegations to the Middle East;

(e) The creation of an NACC sub-committee to implement the above recommendations.

32. Additional, more comprehensive strategies and tactics emanating from the workshops and discussion groups are reproduced in annexes I and II to the present paper and should be carefully considered by the NGO community.

33. NGOs attending the present meeting have selected a North American Co-ordinating Committee. During the coming year, the Committee is charged by this meeting to co-ordinate the work of the North American NGOs present in pursuing our common objectives and strategies. The NGOs present request a report from the Committee at the 1988 North American symposium in order to evaluate its efforts. We urge continuing North American NGO support for the North American Co-ordinating Committee as it works to accomplish the objectives stated in the present Declaration.

34. The North American Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine reaffirms the importance of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and strongly supports contributions from the Governments of the United States and Canada at the current or higher levels. The NGOs strongly reject attempts on the part of some in the United States to de-legitimize the importance of the work of UNRWA.

35. We, the North American NGOs, have taken note of the continuing assaults on Palestinian refugee camps and have duly condemned the atrocities committed, called for the siege to be lifted permanently and called for the free flow of medical assistance and other relief to the camps.

36. We urge all people and organizations working towards an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to support, through an international peace conference the Palestinian rights of return, the right of self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State alongside Israel as a basis for a comprehensive and lasting peace.

NACC wishes to continue to act as a resource for the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights, as requested. NACC requests that the United Nations continue its financial support of an NACC preparatory meeting so that NACC can fulfil its obligations in relation to the 1988 North American Symposium on the Question of Palestine.

37. In order to continue collaboration between the United Nations and the North American NGO community, we urge both the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights to send representatives to the major North American NGO conferences.

38. We urge the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to convey this Declaration to the General Assembly at its forty-second session as part of the Committee's report.

III. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ADOPTS THREE RESOLUTIONS
RELATING TO THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

At its 35th and 36th plenary meetings on 8 July 1987, the Economic and Social Council adopted the following resolutions:

1987/77. Assistance to the Palestinian People

"The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/181 of 8 December 1986,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/49 of 22 July 1986,

Recalling further the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights, adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, 2/

Noting the need to provide economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people,

Noting also that the meeting on assistance to the Palestinian people was held at Geneva on 19 June 1987 in response to General assembly resolution 41/181,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people; 3/

2. Welcomes the preparation of the programme of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people set out in the report of the Secretary-General, 4/

3. Requests the Secretary-General to develop the programme and seek its implementation in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and to co-ordinate the activities envisaged by various organizations of the United Nations system within the framework of the programme;"

"4. Urges the international community, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disburse their aid or any other forms of assistance to the occupied Palestinian territories solely for the benefit of the Palestinian people and in a manner that will not serve to prolong the Israeli occupation;

5. Requests the international community, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to sustain and increase their assistance to the Palestinian people in co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

1987/87. Israeli economic practices in the occupied
Palestinian and other Arab territories

"The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly decision 40/432 of 17 December 1985, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the financial and trade practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,

Noting that the report of the Secretary-General 5/ covers only the financial practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Palestinian territories,

Requests the Secretary-General to implement General Assembly decision 40/432 in full and to report on its implementation to the Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council".

1987/173. Report of the Secretary-General on the living
conditions of the Palestinian people in the
occupied Palestinian territories

"At its 35th plenary meeting, on 8 July 1987, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories." 6/

IV. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
ADOPTS THREE RESOLUTIONS ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Forty-sixth Ordinary Session at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20 to 25 July 1987, adopted the following resolutions (See CM/Res.1093, 1094 and 1096, (XLVI)):

Resolution on the Palestinian Question

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Forty-sixth Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 25 July 1987,

Having examined the Report of the Secretary General on the Question of Palestine contained in Document CM/1451 (XLVI),

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the previous Sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the problem of the Middle East and Palestinian Question,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and of the United Nations Organization and by the common struggle against Zionism and Racism, and for Freedom, Independence and Peace,

Having heard the statement of the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people,

Recalling all the resolutions of the United Nations and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries relevant to the "Question of Palestine" and the "Situation in the Middle East",

Taking note of the Report of the United Nations Committee on the exercise of the inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations relevant to the achievement of a comprehensive just and lasting peace in the Middle East and the endeavours to pursue a peaceful process,

Reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, for the recovery of their territories and the full exercise of their national rights,

Noting with concern that the alliance between the Zionist regime of Israel and the Apartheid regime of South Africa is aimed at pursuing the policy of terrorism and liquidation of the Palestinians and Arabs in the occupied territories on the one hand and the majority black population of South Africa and Namibia on the other:

1. REAFFIRMS all previous resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers of the OAU, on the Palestine Question;
2. REAFFIRMS:
 - (a) the inalienable rights of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property in Palestine from which they were uprooted;
 - (b) the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People to self-determination without external interference and the right to establish its independent Sovereign State in Palestine;
3. WELCOMES the results achieved at the 18th Session of the Palestinian National Council held in Algiers from April 20-25, 1987, and in particular, its contribution to the endeavours and efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace through the just solution of the Question of Palestine;
4. STRONGLY CONDEMNS Israel, the occupying power, for the implementation of its Iron Fist Policies and all racist practices against the Arab Population in the occupied Palestinian territories as such policies and practices of continual occupation, expropriation of land and water resources, expulsion, arbitrary detention and flagrant violations of the norms of international law and relevant conventions;
5. REQUESTS the Security Council of the United Nations to seek ways and means to compel Israel, the occupying power, to terminate its occupation and withdraw its military forces from the Palestinian occupied territories including Jerusalem;
6. AFFIRMS its ADHERENCE to the United Nations Security Council resolutions 476 (30 June 1980) and 478 (20 August 1980) relevant to the Status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and, which, inter-alia, determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, once null and void, and that such actions by Israel constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and a threat to international peace and security, and which, further, demand that Israel rescind such measures;
7. EXPRESSES its GREAT APPRECIATION of the work and diligence of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and, EXPRESSES its CONFIDENCE that the United Nations Secretary-General will continue to provide and increase all assistance and help to the Committee in discharging its noble and human mandate;

8. UNEQUIVOCALLY ENDORSES the call for convening of the international peace conference in conformity with the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolutions 38/58C of 13 December 1983, and 41/42D of 2 December 1986, with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the concerned parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, on an equal footing and with equal rights;
9. DECIDES to continue to support the United Nations Secretary-General in his efforts to implement resolution 38/58 C.
10. URGES the Security Council and in particular its permanent members, to assume fully the responsibility entrusted to it by the Charter, and to increase and render further support and assistance to the Secretary-General to enable him to carry out the task of convening the international peace conference on the Middle East. In this context the Organization of African Unity Summit UNANIMOUSLY EXPRESSES the hope that the Permanent Members of the Security Council, particularly those who have not as yet done so, will show a positive attitude to the convening of the international peace conference;
11. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary General to monitor the developments in the Palestinian Question and to report to the next Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity.

Resolution on the situation in the Palestinian
camps in Lebanon

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Forty-sixth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 25 July 1987,

Reaffirming its unflinching support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to assist them to recover their national inalienable rights,

Strongly condemning the siege of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon,

Considering that the Palestinian camps are constantly besieged and subjected to various forms of deprivation, at a time when the Israeli forces are continuously raiding those camps, bombarding them from sea, land and air, causing a continuous horrible massacre in implementation of a plan concocted without regard to international conscience,

Inspired by the UN resolutions on the protection of Palestinian refugees in the host Arab countries, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the 1949 Geneva Convention:

1. REAFFIRMS its former resolution No. CM/Res. 1087 (XLV);

2. EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN over the tragic attacks directed against the Palestinian camps with the aim of destroying and eliminating them and dispersing their inhabitants by force.

Resolution on the situation in the Middle East

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Forth-sixth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 25 July 1987,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity on the situation in the Middle East as contained in Document CM/1431 (XLVI) Rev. I,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charters of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations, and by the common determination of the African and Arab peoples to fight jointly to safeguard their freedom,

Noting with concern that the alliance between the Zionist regime of Israel and the Apartheid regime of South Africa is aimed at pursuing the policy of terrorism and liquidation of the Palestinians and Arabs in the occupied territories on the one hand and of the black majority in South Africa and Namibia on the other,

Fully conscious of the fact that the support given to Israel and South Africa by some States particularly the United States of America, enables them to pursue their acts of aggression and encourages them to perpetrate acts of terrorism:

1. REAFFIRMS all previous resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers of the OAU and its total and effective support for the Palestinian people under the dynamic leadership of its sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization;
2. EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN at the aggravation of the crisis in the Middle East, and the Palestinian question which is the core of the crisis in the region;
3. FURTHER EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN at the Zionist aggressive and expansionist policy and the forces that support it and AFFIRMS the pressing need to deploy urgent efforts to recover all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and the South of Lebanon;
4. STRONGLY CONDEMNS the alliance between Israel and South Africa and their cooperation in all fields, particularly, nuclear cooperation which threatens Africa and the Middle East and AFFIRMS that the installation of nuclear missiles by Israel in the Golan Heights and the Negev Desert is not only a direct threat to the Arab region but also threatens the peace and security of Africa;

5. RECOMMENDS** that Member States reiterate their firm determination not to establish or re-establish diplomatic ties with Israel, a natural and accomplice of racist South Africa;
6. STRONGLY CONDEMNS all agreements concluded separately and all commitments made individually which constitute a flagrant violation of the rights of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, exercise their right to self determination and full sovereignty over their territory, and CONSIDERS null and void any agreement on the Palestinian question in which the Palestine Liberation Organization did not take part;
7. SUPPORTS the convening of the International Conference on the Middle East question and its crux, the Palestinian question, under the auspices of the United Nations and the participation of all parties concerned including the Palestine Liberation Organization on an equal footing, along with the Permanent Members of the Security Council on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions on the Palestinian question and the Middle East;
8. CONDEMNS the collusion between the Zionist regime and the racist regime in South Africa and CALLS UPON all Member States to increase their efforts to counter this threat and intensify the struggle against Zionism and Apartheid in South Africa;
9. STRONGLY CONDEMNS the massacres perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the camps in Lebanon and CALLS UPON the parties concerned, the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies and the Government of Lebanon to assume their responsibilities, put an end to those actions and ensure the protection and security of the Palestinian camps and their inhabitants;
10. STRONGLY CONDEMNS the courageous efforts made by the Lebanese people to face the Zionist Israeli aggression and AFFIRMS the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon;
11. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary General to follow up the situation in the Middle East and submit a report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity.

**Reservations by Togo, Liberia and Zaire

*Reservations: Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon

V. COMMITTEE OF NINE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ON PALESTINE ISSUES
COMMUNIQUE AT PYONGYANG, THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
KOREA, 10 JUNE 1987

1. In conformity with its decision at the recent meeting in Harare from 14 to 15 April, 1987, the Committee of Nine Non-Aligned Countries on Palestine met at Ministerial level in Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on June 10, 1987 to review the efforts being made towards the early convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

2. Present at the meeting were the Foreign Ministers of Zimbabwe (Chairman), Algeria, Cuba, India, Yugoslavia, Zambia and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Bangladesh as well as the Ambassador of Senegal to the People's Republic of China and a delegation of the PLO led by H.E. Brother Milhem.

3. The Ministers reviewed the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Harare Declaration for Peace in the Middle East, including the contacts established with the Permanent Members of the Security Council in Committee capitals and in New York, and the meetings of the Permanent Representatives of the Committee with the Secretary General of the United Nations, the President of the Security Council as well as all the other members of the Security Council in New York. In the light of this review, and the briefing given by the representative of the PLO on the recent meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), held in Algiers from April 20-25, 1987 and on the current state of the struggle of the Palestinian people:

(a) The Ministers warmly welcomed the outcome of the recent PNC Algiers meeting which they hailed as a major victory for the Palestinian people. In this context, they expressed their deep appreciation for the great efforts exerted by President Chedli Benjedid and the Algerian people towards the success of the PNC meeting.

(b) The Ministers recalled and reaffirmed the decisions contained in their recent Harare Declaration of the Committee of Nine Non-Aligned Countries on Palestine and resolved to step up their efforts to contribute towards the early convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

(c) The Committee decided to meet again at Ministerial level during the forty second session of the General Assembly in order to review the situation.

VI. EXCERPT FROM THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE TWENTIETH ASEAN
MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD AT SINGAPORE ON
15 AND 16 JUNE 1987

"The Foreign Ministers viewed with concern the unresolved Arab-Israeli conflict. They reiterated their full support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination, and the restoration of Arab sovereignty over their occupied territories. The Foreign Ministers called for renewed efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement by negotiations. Towards this end, they expressed support for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations." (See A/42/477-S/1908, para. 58)

VII. NGO ACTIVITY AND INFORMATION

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip numerous commemorative events took place throughout the United States. Activities were sponsored in twelve cities by the following NGOs: the Capitol District Committee for Palestinian Rights; the New Jewish Agenda; the November 29th Committee; the Mobilization for Survival; the American Friends Service Committee; the Lebanon Emergency Committee; the US Peace Council; the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; the Palestine Human Rights Campaign; the Palestinian Students' Association; the Union of Palestinian Women; the International Jewish Peace Union; the New York network for Peace and Justice in the Middle East; and the Democratic Socialists of America.

In Greece, the Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity set up a "Greek Committee for the year of Palestine 1987" to commemorate all the important Palestinian-related anniversaries that fall within the current year. At their first event, held on April 3, the Day of the Land, a resolution affirming solidarity with the Palestinian people was approved by a cross section of leaders from Greek social and political life. Participants included Mr. Tawfiq Zayyad, Mayor of Nazareth, Mr. Fathi Shbeta, member of the Central Secretariat of the Committee for the Defense of the Land, and Mr. Yuri Pines from the Students' Union.

Regarding other activity, Orientalia announced that the EEC has agreed to co-finance a project for 12 kindergarten schools to be established in Ramallah, Jerusalem, Nablus, Tulkarem and Hebron. The Union of Women's Work Committee is a partner in the executive committee of the project.

Notes

1/ The Immigration and Naturalization Service seeks to deport seven Palestinians and one Kenyan under the McCarran-Walter Act, accusing them of membership in an organization which promotes international communism as well as other technical immigration violations.

2/ Report of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, Geneva, 29 August-7 September 1983 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.I.21), chap. I, sect. B.

3/ A/42/289-E/1987/86 and Add. 1.

4/ A/42/289-E/1987/86, annex.

5/ A/42/341-E/1987/78.

6/ A/42/183-E/1987/53.
